



Gender and Climate Change

A climate equity vision for now

How we define the problem

Women* are the worst hit by climate change and have lesser resources to adapt or mitigate the climate impacts which affect different aspects of their lives and well-being. For example,



Livelihoods of women are impacted by climate change, especially for those working in the informal economy.

There is an increased disease burden and caregiving responsibilities.



Women's health is affected due to the disruption of health services.

Increased malnutrition due to food insecurity and inequitable distribution of resources at household level.



Women and children are more vulnerable to disasters.

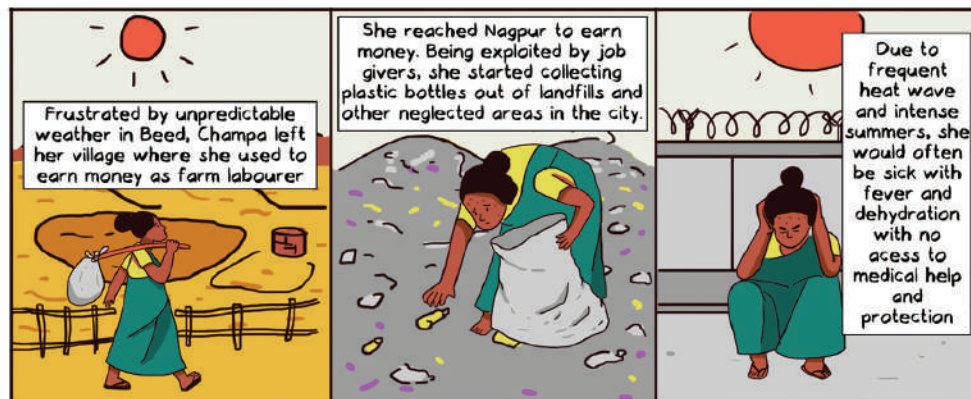
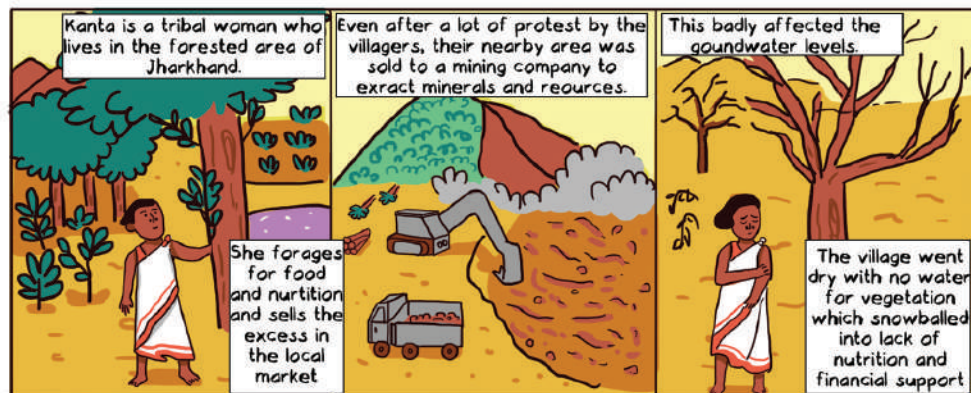
Gender based violence and increased drudgery.



Girls are forced to drop out of school due to increased economic hardships.



* We understand that 'women' is not a homogenous group and our strategy acknowledges that based on their intersectional vulnerabilities, they will experience differential impacts of the climate crisis.



Why do we think the problem persists?

Climate change exacerbates gender inequities that exist in our society especially for women who are poor and disadvantaged due to intersectional vulnerabilities.



The increase in systemic discrimination and power asymmetries will put the disproportionate burden of this crisis on women and disempower them limiting their ability to engage and take action.

However, women's leadership (social, economic and political) is critical to arrive at climate solutions and for integrating women from marginalised groups (like indigenous groups) into decision-making at all levels as this would help improve both- climate mitigation and adaptation policies and their implementation.

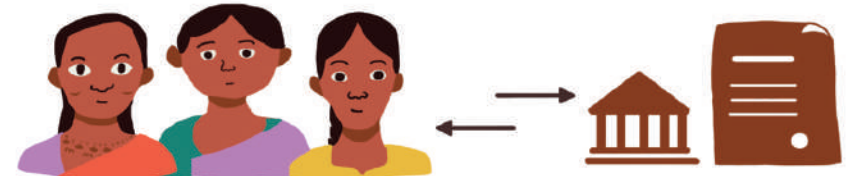
Our solution

Incorporating and implementing gender transformative climate strategies that will diagnose, intervene and transform basic causes of gender inequity that make different communities of women vulnerable to climate change and catalyse climate solutions embedded in mitigation, adaptation and resilience driven by women.

The strategies should:-



Focus on intersectional vulnerabilities of women from different communities.



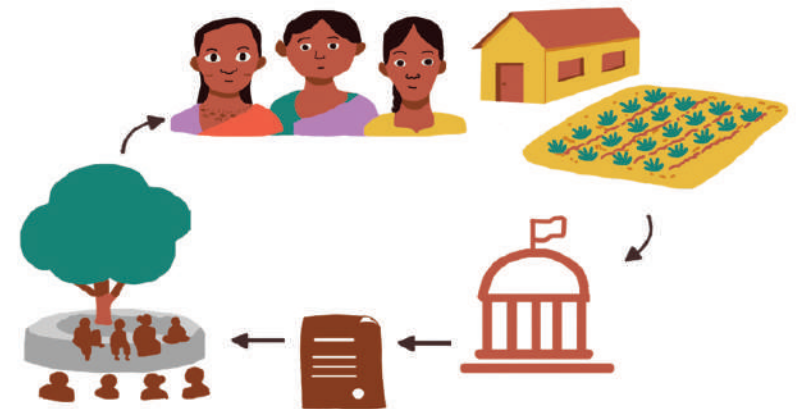
Focus on solutions driven by participatory decision making led by women at the intersection of mitigation, adaptation and resilience.



Address the root causes of climate induced vulnerability of women and understand these intersectional vulnerabilities by constantly engaging with the communities of women.



Address climate as a political problem rooted in unequal power structures and oppressive social norms.



Engage and collaborate with state and local Government's schemes to support in climate compatible development.

Gender Transformative Climate Framework

Basic Causes	Women's roles in society and within homes 	Women's lack of ownership and limited access to resources 	Power Asymmetry in all spheres against women 
Climate induced increased vulnerability	Societal norms: Gendered roles within households and in communities place burden of fulfilling basic needs of family on women, leading to disproportionately higher impact of climate change on them 	Lack of enabling environment: Low representation in political and governance decision making spaces restricts their agency, result in their needs not being adequately voiced and addressed and they are not seen as agents of change 	Biological roles: Pregnant women and fetus highly vulnerable to climate change's environment impacts, coupled with disruptions in health services places them in greater danger 
	Poverty, lack of economic opportunities and control of resources lead to greater economic stress and less ability to cope with climate change 	Lack of rights over assets such as house and land lead to absence of any financial safety net in times of stress and inability to access credit, extension services 	Intersectionality: Women from disadvantaged communities face deprivation of basic necessities for survival even in absence of climate change makes their situation worse making survival difficult 
Gender Climate Interventions (Mitigation + Adaptation + Resilience)	Climate education and leadership for women led narratives on climate change: Capacity Building Programme for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions 	Protecting commons for climate compatible development: Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 	Climate resilience of women who are at forefront of climate mitigation efforts: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission (Phase II), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Grameen 
	Financial inclusion for social safety nets: PMMVY, Ayushman Bharat, PM Fasal Bima Yojana 	Just transition to have a strong gender and caste focus for strengthening livelihoods: MGNREGS, NRLM, ATMA 	
Impact	SHORT TERM IMPACTS • Building knowledge and capacity of women to work on climate change and engage with climate solutions • Increased access to resources to build climate resilience • Increased access to financial products to address vulnerabilities w r t climate change 		LONG TERM IMPACTS • Building a regional diverse women's network, who are a strong voice within the system on climate resilience • More effective management and protection of commons by the women • Enhanced engagement of women at policy level on climate change 

How could you engage and invest in gender transformative climate change strategies

Awareness and Education

- Climate resources made accessible in different vernacular languages to engage in conversations around climate change and relevant solutions
- Continuous efforts to engage men and boys as part of the awareness and education drives.
- Trainings, platforms and opportunities for women reporting on climate in challenging geographies resulting in an increase in women centric stories in the regional media at state and district level and through local media platforms such as community radio.
- Contextual communication material and tools made available to existing women's networks like women self-help groups, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs).



Research & Innovation

- Identifying gaps in approaches on gender and climate to respond to the needs of diverse communities of women.



- Prototyping and testing approaches around insurance schemes and direct benefit transfer on financial inclusion of women living in climate vulnerable geographies and belonging to low income groups.
- Pilot innovative approaches to prioritise women and increase the existing social protection cover based on intersectionality.

Capacity and perspective building

- Collective perspective building on climate to increase resilience of women at the forefront of climate mitigation efforts (especially waste workers, landless labourers and Adivasi women).
- Capacity building of PRI members, block and district level officials on increased responsiveness to health, WASH, clean energy, financial literacy and housing needs of women who are caregivers or part of the informal economy to build their resilience to climate change.
- Develop spaces of learning and dialogue among respective decision makers and community of women to build a collective understanding of the problem and climate solutions.

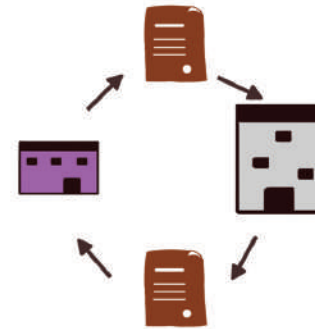
Local Collectives

- Building new local collectives of women or strengthening existing ones with resources to work on climate compatible development* in their communities.
- Mapping of commons in urban and rural areas and creating local diverse collectives to conserve them for women's livelihoods.
- Strengthen local collectives to work with PRI members at village level to include commons for local livelihoods as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).



System level networks

- Linking women most vulnerable to the climate crisis in rural and urban poor areas with livelihood options through Government schemes and existing federations.
- Creating a network of new cooperatives and federations that provide sustained income to women to build their climate resilience and focus on climate compatible livelihoods.



- Building an ecosystem that supports and mentors communities of vulnerable women on resources, tools and knowledge on building climate resilient futures.

Interested in joining a gender and climate network to help women mitigate and build resilience to climate change?

Contact us here and we will be happy to reach out to you!



*Climate Compatible Development- development that minimizes the harm caused by climate change and focuses on human development opportunities based on low emissions

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